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## Children & Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

### LEADERS FOR CHANGE: PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN ACTION

*A customized training and support program for the development of parents as leaders*

In 2012, the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) awarded Parent Services Project, Inc. a three year grant to establish parent leadership academies designed to engage, train, and promote parents as leaders within their families and communities. Parent Services Project named this project, Leaders for Change: Protective Factors in Action.

Leaders for Change is a 20-hour training program grounded in the evidence-based Five Protective Factors of the Strengthening Families Initiative, which are shown to strengthen families, promote optimal child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. (For details, refer to [www.cssp.org](http://www.cssp.org).) Parents are equipped with knowledge and skills in leadership and advocacy to prepare them to create change in their families, organizations, and communities.

Each Leaders for Change training is tailored to the unique needs of the community based upon input from local advisors. This serves to ensure that all content, materials, and strategies are relevant to the special needs, interests, and focus of the specific community in which the training occurs. The complete 20 hours of training is delivered over three full-day training sessions to parents and selected staff of the hosting family service organization.

Following the training, Parent Services Project offers corresponding Train-the-Trainer sessions for local leaders, who have participated in the training. This training equips local leaders to replicate Leaders for Change and further spread knowledge and skills related to parent leadership and the Five Protective Factors.

For more in depth information on Leaders for Change and the corresponding Train-the-Trainer program, please visit the Parent Services Project website at: [www.parentservices.org](http://www.parentservices.org).

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